covered with ecchymoses, and the bronchiæ filled with foamy sputa.

A second rabbit, carefully chosen and pure white in color, was experimented upon ; on this animal MM. Marcus and Wiet stretched both pneumogastrics, operating on the central end and carefully avoiding any implication of the sympathetics. Immediately after the operation they observed a considerable congestion of the two ears, which was followed, a few minutes later, by a not less-marked contraction of the vessels. This anæmia was of short duration, and gave place to an intense vaso-dilatation that existed up to the time of making their report, and a very well-marked double myosis. The next day the animal commenced to have difficulty in breathing, and this symptom became still more prominent and led to the presumption that the rabbit would ultimately die asphyxiated. The analysis of the urine showed nothing abnormal the first day after the operation, but on the second day it revealed the presence of traces of sugar, well shown by Fehling's test and that of the subnitrate of bismuth.

The authors also stretched the two vagi in another rabbit to ascertain whether the operation would not produce glycosuria. This, indeed, was the fact, as the experimenters easily demonstrated with the aid of the above-mentioned reagents.

These facts appear to show that stretching of the nerves produces an effect on the nerve centres, and they may throw some light on several physiological questions now the order of the day. The histological study of the medullas of the animals experimented upon will aid to complete the investigation, and may also be of some use in the solution of these problems.

MM. Marcus and Wiet also stretched the sympathetic and the vagus by pulling the peripheral portion, and their researches will form the subject of a future communication.

CALCAREOUS DEPOSITS IN THE SPINAL ARACHNOID.—Chvostek, *Wiener Med. Presse,* Nos. 51 and 52, 1880, and 13 and 15, 1881 (abstr. in *Centralbl. f. d. Med. Wissench.*, No. 27), reports a series of cases in which, with the clinical symptoms of a spinal affection,—severe neuralgic pains, increased by attempts at movement of the rigidly held lumbar and dorsal vertebræ, the ascending extension of the process from the lumbar to the dorsal spine, the late and insignificant involvement of the motor nerves, the advanced age of the patients, the long duration of the process, and, prominently, the lack of symptoms that are characteristic of other spinal diseases, being the principal points for the diagnosis,—the autopsy revealed numerous and very large calcareous plates in the spinal arachnoid, which apparently bore a causal relation to the above symptoms.

THE COINCIDENCE OF SPINAL DISEASE AND SKIN AFFECTIONS.—A. Jarisch, *Vierteljahrschr. f. Dermatol. u. Syphilis*, 1880, p. 195, (abst. in *Centralbl. für Med. Wissensch.*, No. 27, 1881). Starting with the presumption that the advances in nerve pathology would also assist in the explanation of the connection between skin diseases and disorders of the nervous system, the author undertook the microscopic examination of the spinal cord of a patient who, without developing motor or sensory disturbances, had suffered from an intense, in part sharply limited, febrile herpes iris, and, after the occurrence of an acute bedsore over the sacrum and fatal inflammation of the lungs, had afforded, as obvious results of the autopsy, a lobular pneumonia associated with the third stage of Bright's disease.

Examination of the cord hardened in a $\frac{1}{10}$th per cent. solution of chromic acid, revealed notable alterations in its gray axis. The central and posterior portions of both anterior horns appeared in part to be spongy and in part shrunken, and in the region of the 3-7 and 2-5 cervical nerves there were symmetrical lateral foci of alteration. The majority of the ganglion cells in the anterior horns, from the third cervical to the eighth dorsal vertebra, had become coarsely granular, and their processes were notably thickened ; also there had been formed in the foci a network of thick, smooth-margined fibres made up of irregularly formed pieces.

These alterations existed in their greatest intensity in those parts in which Charcot has located his hypothetical trophic centres for the skin.

The author also extended his investigations into the spinal cord in syphilis, and found in three cases of inherited syphilis circumscribed foci in the central portion of the anterior horns or in the commissure, which were deeply colored and showed visible swellings of the network. In two of these cases the protoplasm of the ganglion cells was coarsely granular ; in the third it appeared shrunken and penetrated by numerous vacuoles. The medulla in a case of acquired syphilis was similarly pathologically altered.

Finally, Jarisch discovered in the spinal cord of a man who had been a sufferer from psoriasis for the greater part of his life,